Setting Up of Alfa Olefins Unit in the Country

854. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI SOM PAL :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Business Standard of 28th March, 1992 about the setting up of Alfa Olefins Unit in the country ;

(b) whether Gujarat-Godrej proposes to establish an undertaking for the manufacture of Alfa Olefins with the technical and Financial Collaboration of Lurgi ;

(c) whether Government are aware that Alfa Olefins is used for the manufacture of detergents widely used in the manufacture of Soaps etc. ;

(d) whether Government are also aware that Sultone gets produced in the manufacture of detergents from Alfa Olefins, which causes cancer ; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to stop such health hazardous unit to come up in the country without making indepth investigation of the facts referred to above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) During the conversion of alpha olefins to alpha olefin sulphonates, which are used in the manufacture of detergents, some unsaturated sultones are likely to be produced as bye-products. Studies carried out on mice suggest that one of these sultones viz., propane sultone has potential for causing skin cancer. However, alpha olefin sulphonates are less toxic than linear alkyl benzene sulphonates. These are also rapidly and fully biodegradable, cause less irritation to skin and have low toxicity. Their use is, therefore, being encouraged for manufacturing detergents.

Coastal Zone Regulations

855. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to amend the coastal zone regulations, enacted last year which prohibited any construction and related activities within 200 metres of the high tide line, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that former Prime Ministers of India viz., Late Indira Gandhi as well as Late Rajiv Gandhi, had expressed most serious concern against encroachment of our coastal zones while issuing directives in 1981, prohibiting constructions within 500 metres of the high tide line, which the latter relaxed in 1985 for four centres viz., Goa, Mahabalipuram, Puri and Thiruvananthapuram ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the rationale of those directives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir. A committee has been consituted to examine the coastal zone regulations, in the context of tourism and hotel facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have considered the rationale of those directives and issued a notification regulating activities along the coastal stretches of the country and advised the State Governments to prepare the coastal zone management plans on the basis of the provisions of the notification.

Complaints Against Rajen Babu T.B. Hospital

856. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaint from Patients' Welfare

Organisation, Palam, New Delhi about alleged irregularities, malpractices and corruption in Rajen Babu T.B. Hospital, G.T.B. Nagar, Delhi ;

(b) whether any Member of Parliament had represented the matter to the Minister ;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi dated 1st April, 1992 under the caption "No Medicines in T.B. Hospital" ;

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto ; and

(e) what steps are being taken to set right the things in Rajen Babu T.B. Hospital ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Old Data on Nutritional Status

857. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the NIN, Hyderabad continues to use old data on nutritional status of various regions as in the November, 1991 issue of their Nutrition News released in April, 1992 which appears to have very little relevance to the ground realities ; and

(b) whether Government would streamline our R and D structure and ensure that they take up meaningful need based projects and timely publication including regular DD programmes for mass communication of upto date research on the lines of BBC programmes etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The old datas used by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad in the November, 1991 issue of Nutrition News, were for comparison of growth status of Nicobarese to their rural counterparts on the mainland.

(b) The Research and Development (R&D) activities in the Institutes under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are undertaken with the guidance of the Scientific Advisory Committees and the Scientific Advisory Groups. The NIN has co-ordination with Programme Advisory Committee for Family Welfare Programme of the All India Radio, Hyderabad and Door Darshan Kendra, Hyderabad for broadcasts and telecasts on nutrition and health topics. The Institute also brings out publications like Nutrition (English), Postan (Hindi), Poshana (Telugu) and Nutrition news regularly.

Use of Green Algae

858. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the NIN, Hyderabad is now advocating use of blue green algae Spirulina as a source of vitamin 'A' ;

(b) whether as per NIN it would be difficult to administer more than 162 grams of this product in food daily and if so, whether NIN would use and recommend compressed tablets as in case of yeast etc. ; and

(c) whether this new vitamin 'A' product has been tested and or used anywhere else in the world and if so, whether it would be faster and cheaper to import such technology rather wait for our archaic and slow moving R and D infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Studies conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, in rats and children have indicated that freshly harvested spray-dried Spirulina is a good source of Vitamin 'A'.